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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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23122	7590	05/16/2006	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA			SHANG, ANNAN Q	
P O BOX 980			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980			2623	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/883,533

Applicant(s)

SRIVASTAVA, GOPAL K.

Examiner

Annan Q. Shang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 02/28/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to claims 1-5 rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al (6,751,687), applicant states that, "...Sato et al disclose that the video equipment and the video receivers include respective infrared light receivers to receive control information from a remote control device. The remote control device is separate (i.e. remote from) the devices being controlled and, so, can not be a part of a controller or audio/video platform (AVP) as required by claim 1..." (see page labeled 2 of 4 of applicant's remarks/arguments).

In response, Examiner disagrees. Examiner, notes applicant's arguments, however as discussed in the office action, Sato discloses a controller 10 (device 1) or AVP which includes an IR transceiver 115 (see fig.2 bidirectional medium between IR-115, CPU-110, Operation Panel 114, IEEE1394, etc.,) for controlling target device 30 and other target devices within the IEEE1394 network. Sato discloses in col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2 that, "...CPU 110 are supplied operating information from an operation panel 114 and control information from the remote control device whose infrared light receiver 115 receives, so that an operation control corresponding to the operating information and control is performed. Furthermore, when the interface 109 receives control data such as command and its response according to the AV/C command stated below through the IEEE1394 type bus....Transmission of the command and its

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response from the interface 109 is performed under control of the CPU 110.,” (col.10, lines 55-67). Sato further illustrates in fig.17 and col.16, lines 33-60, two nodes, A and B, where one is a controller and the other is a target and where the controller transmits instructions to the target by writing command message into the command register...”

Sato teaches transmitting remote control commands via the IEEE1394 interfaces coupled to the IEEE1394 network between a controller (device 1) and a target (device 2). Hence, applicant's arguments are not persuasive, the rejection of claims 1-5 under 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato, is proper, meets all the claimed limitations and maintained.

With respect to claims 6-12 rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al in view of Humpleman et al (6,603,488), applicant argues that Humpleman et al. do not supply the deficiencies of Sato. However, as discussed above, Sato teaches all the claimed limitations, hence the rejection of claims 6-12, is proper, meets all the claimed limitation and maintained. This office action is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Sato et al (6,751,687)**.

As to claims 1-2, note the **Sato** reference figures 1-3, discloses method of controlling device, transmission device and medium and further discloses an audio/video platform (AVP) (First Video Receiver 'First-VR' 10 or 20) for video signal processing system, comprising:

a digital communications port (Plugs 13 'IEEE1394 I/F-109' of Video Receiver 10, fig.1 and col.9, lines 29-40 and lines 51-63) for transferring control and data signals between the AVP (First-VR-10) and at least a first video device (one of AVE-30, 40 and 50);

at least one analog video communications port (Plug 14, col.10, lines 5-9) for transferring video signals between a second video device (AVE 30) and the AVP;

an infrared transmitter (IR-115, col.10, lines 50-60) for transmitting infrared control commands to the second video device (one of AVE 30, 40 and 50); and

a control processor (CPU-110, col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2) coupled to the digital video communications port (Plug 13) and the infrared transmitter (IR-115) for sending control signals commands to the first video device via the digital communications port and for sending control commands to the second video device via the infrared transmitter (col.15, lines 20-45, col.16, lines 48-60, col.20, lines 5-25 and col.21, lines 9-38).

As to claim 3, Sato further discloses where the communications port is an IEEE

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1394 which is configured to send and receive control and data signals to a first video device (one of AVE 30, 40 and 50) as a slave device and to receive data signals from a third device (one of AVE 30, 40 and 50) as a master device (col.9, lines 28-50 and col.21, lines 9-38).

As to claim 4, Sato further discloses where AVE-10 includes memory (ROM-111 and RAM-112, col.10, lines 50-60) for storing respective commands sets for the AVE devices.

As to claim 5, Sato further discloses where the digital communications port is configured to receive a transport stream as specified by MPEG via the digital communications port and A/V platform further comprises an MPEG decoder which processes the MPEG TS to generate a video output signal (col.11, lines 3-53).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sato et al (6,751,687)** in view of **Humpleman et al (6,603,488)**.

As to claims 6-7, Sato, fails to explicitly teach generating on-screen display signals, which displays commands for selected one of the first and second devices using graphics processor.

However, **Humpleman** teaches generating on-screen display signals and menus which display control commands for a selected Home-Devices using the graphics processor and responds to corresponding commands from the RC, which includes control switches for control the Home-Ds, and transmits corresponding commands to the selected Home-Ds and group devices by room bases (figs. 8-12, col. 6, line 58-col. 7, line 24, col. 8, line 32-col. 9, line 9 and col. 14, line 20+).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a GUI of the various devices on the network to enable the user to control each device or groups of devices in each room as desired.

As to claims 8-12, note the **Sato** reference figures 1-3, method of controlling device, transmission device and medium and further discloses a method for controlling a plurality of video devices (AVE-30, 40 and 50) from an audio/video platform (AVE-10 and 20), where a first group (AVE-30, 40 and 50) includes respective digital communications ports (Plugs 32, 42 and 52) and are configured as slave mode devices and a second group of plurality of video devices (AVE-10 and 20) include respective digital communications ports (Plugs 13 and 22) and are configured as master mode devices, at least the second group of video devices includes an infrared (IR) receiver (I-115) which is responds to commands transmitted by the IR remote, the method comprising the steps of:

Transmitting (CPU-110, col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2) digital commands to the first group of plurality of video devices (AVE-30, 40 and 50) using the digital communication port (Plug 13 and 22);

Transmitting (CPU-110) infrared commands to the second group of the plurality of video devices (AVE-10, col.10, line 50-col.11, line 2);

Sato further registers AVE devices, storing commands sets for the devices in memory and responsive to a request to transmit a control signal to a selected one of the devices (col.13, line 64-col.14, line 16, col.15, line 4-45 and col.16, line 33-60), retrieves the identified command set for the selected video device from the memory, configuring the AVE-10 to communicate digital and analog signals between devices using digital and analog ports (col.10, line 5-col.11, line 2, col.18, lines 38-67 and col.21, line 9+)

Sato fails to explicitly teach grouping devices, displaying a command menu for selected one of the first and second groups of video devices, receiving infrared commands corresponding to the displayed command menu and translating the received commands for the selected one of the first and second groups of video devices and transmitting the translated commands to the selected one of the first and second groups of video devices.

However, **Humpleman** teaches generating on-screen display signals and menus which display control commands for a selected Home-Devices using the graphics processor and responds to corresponding commands from the RC, which includes control switches for control the Home-Ds, groups devices on a room-by-room basis to identify respective command sets for the each room home-Ds and storing the identified command sets for room devices into memory and responsive to a request to transmit a control signal to the selected one of the Home-Ds or room-Ds and associating the control signal with a command from the retrieved command set and transmitting the

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associated command to the selected one of a room-Ds set (figs. 8-12, col. 6, line 58-col. 7, line 24, col. 8, line 32-col. 9, line 9 and col. 14, line 20+).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a GUI of the various devices on the network to enable the user to control each device or groups of devices in each room as desired.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

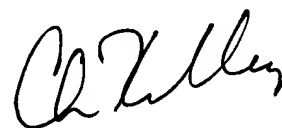
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



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